



MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

March 31, 2008

DIVISION	COMMANDER	DEPARTMENT	% OF GOAL
I	Daniel Contreras	California	100.00
II	William Wroolie	Minnesota	102.08
III	Charles F. Richardson	Connecticut	99.94
IV	Richard C. Amos	South Dakota	101.79
V	Gary A. Lucus	Wyoming	99.33

NATIONAL CONVENTION CREDENTIALS PROCESS REVISED

In an effort to make registration smoother, faster and more accurate, the credentials registration process is undergoing some key changes at this year's National Convention.

As usual, Chapter Commanders and Adjutants will designate delegates and alternates and provide full names and membership code numbers of participating representatives. The yellow 2008 National Convention delegate and alternate credentials should be returned to National Headquarters as soon as possible.

Once these forms are received, delegates and alternates will be notified by letter of their status as delegates. That notification will serve as convention credentials for those key individuals.

Each delegate and alternative will be asked to bring that letter to convention and present it at the DAV Registration Desk. A bar code on the letter will be scanned to confirm the credentials of attendees and will automatically register him or her in the database and print appropriate convention badges.

Blue delegate and pink alternate forms will no longer be required.

The goal of these changes is to speed up the registration process and make it more accurate through the use of available technology.

‘Second Life’ for DAV

Virtual worlds have been created for many different purposes. The largest and most common type of virtual world is the “MMORPG” which stands for “Massively Multiplayer Online Playing Game.” But virtual worlds have also been built for purposes other than gaming.

There are many commercial community-focused virtual worlds that emphasize socializing rather than gaming. These worlds offer a more open-ended experience and are strongly influenced by the cultures of text-based chat rooms.

One of these communities is Second Life, an internet-based virtual world populated with millions of users and thousands of businesses and organizations. And as many of you are learning, the DAV is one of those organizations.

The DAV owns real estate in the community and will be using it to reach out to the public and to educate veterans and our supporters about the issues we face and the services we provide.

Second Life users interface with other users through created Avatars. An Avatar is the computer user’s representation of him or herself. It is an “object” representing the embodiment of the user. These Avatars can visit DAV’s reserved community to network and learn more about our mission.

Second Life permits veterans with disabilities that preclude socialization to become active in DAV and other community activities. Eventually, DAV will make Chapter meetings and other events available in Second Life. It is conceivable that initial service contacts could also take place through Second Life.

Most importantly, Second Life gives the DAV a new outlet for reaching out to current and prospective members. It shows the organization’s willingness to act as innovators, anticipating technological solutions and taking advantage of opportunities available through information technology.

As the DAV develops in Second Life we envision new growth and greater membership participation. As technologies cultivate over the next several years, virtual worlds will be used for all types of purposes and DAV will be there on the cutting edge. For more information on Second Life, visit <http://www.secondlife.com> .

QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Signing our aging seniors as members in some cases gives the DAV long overdue recognition for the services we offered over the course of an entire generation. However, it’s not a solution to reaching our membership goals. We who’ve been around for years are seeing some changes in the air. Our ranks are getting grayer – err, more distinguished – every day.

Our legacy depends on our true leadership and integrity in recruiting. Reaching out to a Vietnam War veteran who is ready for the first time to get involved in the DAV is great. Securing the membership of a post-Vietnam era veteran who is a future Department Commander or Chapter Adjutant is golden. Focusing on quality recruiting is critical to a vital DAV for the young men and women who will need our services in the next generation.

COMPLETE MEMBER INFORMATION REQUIRED ON ALL APPLICATIONS

Following the DAV's comparison of its membership database with the Social Security death index, the importance of completely filling out membership applications has come to light. A populace of members who are not fully identified potentially jeopardizes the DAV's credibility and makes it impossible to determine key demographics.

As recruiters push to renew our ranks following the purge of deceased members, it is important that they obtain complete information about applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for applications is necessary and critical.

Ironically for recruiters, one of the most common gaps in the information provided on applicants is the sponsor code that gives recruiters credit for their prospective members. By ensuring that the Membership Department gets all the required information, you expedite your applicant's membership and ensure you get the credit for your efforts!

NATIONAL CONVENTION SCOOTERS NO LONGER FREE

Golden Technologies, supplier of more than 130 scooters for DAV conventions annually at no cost to the DAV members, will no longer provide scooters free of charge. An \$80 fee will be charged for scooter use beginning this year in Las Vegas.

Requests for a scooter should be made in advance of the National Convention. **You must have a reservation in order to have a scooter available for use at the convention.**

To request a scooter, forward the name, address, telephone number and DAV chapter or unit affiliation to Michael J. Walsh, DAV Deputy Inspector General, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 2065, or e-mail mwalsh@davmail.org; requests may also be sent to Rojean Long, Membership Administrative Assistant, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 1342, or e-mail to rlong@davmail.org. The information will be forwarded to Golden Technologies who will contact individuals for confirmation and arrange for payment of fees.

This new fee-based service remains a reasonable accommodation for those who need it. However, members are welcome and encouraged to bring their own scooter to the National Convention.

Members who decide to purchase their reserved scooter may apply the \$80 fee toward the purchase price.

MEMBER BENEFIT: TRAVEL DISCOUNTS FOR SUMMER VACATIONERS

Get away from it all this summer and save 10% off the "best available rate" as a DAV member! To redeem this offer, call the toll-free number of the hotel franchise you wish to use, provide DAV's Member Benefits ID number – 61725 – and make your reservations at the hotel of your choice.

This offer is subject to availability at participating locations and some blackout dates may apply. It can't be combined with other specials.

Days Inn	800-268-2195	Howard Johnson	800-769-0939
Ramada	800-462-8035	Travelodge	800-545-5545
Knights Inn	800-682-1071	Wingate Inn	877-202-8814
Super 8	800-889-9706	Ameri Host	800-996-2087

LEADERSHIP ADVICE: PROFILES IN COURAGE

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was a Navy veteran of World War II and a DAV member. On August 2, 1943, he injured his back when his patrol boat was rammed by a Japanese destroyer near the Solomon Islands. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart among other decorations. His life was ended on November 22, 1963. As the DAV sees increasingly fewer veterans elected to national office, it is important to remember our fallen Commander in Chief's thoughts on leadership and citizenship.

While recovering from spinal surgery after the war, he wrote *Profiles in Courage*, a book that described politicians who risked their careers based on their personal beliefs. The following excerpts from his Pulitzer Prize-awarded book are provided courtesy of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum:

"The true democracy, living and growing and inspiring, puts its faith in the people - faith that the people will not simply elect men who will represent their views ably and faithfully, but will also elect men who will exercise their conscientious judgment - faith that the people will not condemn those whose devotion to principle leads them to unpopular courses, but will reward courage, respect honor, and ultimately recognize right." [p. 264]

"For in a democracy, every citizen, regardless of his interest in politics, 'hold office'; everyone of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities. We, the people, are the boss, and we will get the kind of political leadership, be it good or bad, that we demand and deserve." [p. 265]

"In whatever area in life one may meet the challenges of courage, whatever may be the sacrifices he faces if he follows his conscience - the loss of his friends, his fortune, his contentment, even the esteem of his fellow men - each man must decide for himself the course he will follow. The stories of past courage can define that ingredient - they can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul." [p. 266]

"For without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men - such as the subjects of this book - have *lived* ." [p. 266]

"A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality." [p. 266]


ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
National Membership Director



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 03/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division I - Over 35,000 Members					
1	CALIFORNIA	81,162	81,160	100.00%	2
2	MASSACHUSETTS	37,011	37,055	99.88%	-44
3	NEW YORK	62,267	62,459	99.69%	-192
4	PENNSYLVANIA	41,706	42,005	99.29%	-299
5	FLORIDA	68,590	69,138	99.21%	-548
6	MICHIGAN	30,431	30,725	99.04%	-294
7	OHIO	38,576	38,977	98.97%	-401
8	VIRGINIA	25,886	26,256	98.59%	-370
9	TEXAS	62,366	63,299	98.53%	-933
10	NORTH CAROLINA	33,794	34,479	98.01%	-685
Division Totals		481,789	485,553	99.22%	-3,764
Division II - 18,000 To 34,999 Members					
1	MINNESOTA	17,850	17,486	102.08%	364
2	COLORADO	18,550	18,489	100.33%	61
3	WISCONSIN	17,137	17,146	99.95%	-9
4	MISSOURI	19,089	19,118	99.85%	-29
5	KENTUCKY	21,507	21,593	99.60%	-86
6	NEW JERSEY	23,239	23,366	99.46%	-127
7	WASHINGTON	20,279	20,394	99.44%	-115
8	MARYLAND	15,568	15,692	99.21%	-124
9	ARIZONA	19,500	19,669	99.14%	-169
10	INDIANA	17,270	17,419	99.14%	-149
11	OKLAHOMA	18,744	18,915	99.10%	-171
12	TENNESSEE	16,397	16,634	98.58%	-237
13	ILLINOIS	21,062	21,387	98.48%	-325
14	SOUTH CAROLINA	13,622	13,848	98.37%	-226
15	ALABAMA	16,804	17,177	97.83%	-373
16	GEORGIA	18,527	19,126	96.87%	-599
Division Totals		295,145	297,459	99.22%	-2,314
Division III - 10,000 To 17,999 Members					
1	CONNECTICUT	9,925	9,931	99.94%	-6
2	LOUISIANA	10,716	10,743	99.75%	-27
3	KANSAS	8,140	8,190	99.39%	-50
4	NEW MEXICO	11,162	11,249	99.23%	-87
5	ARKANSAS	13,465	13,621	98.85%	-156
6	WEST VIRGINIA	9,748	9,879	98.67%	-131
7	OREGON	9,185	9,316	98.59%	-131
8	PUERTO RICO	7,847	8,058	97.38%	-211
Division Totals		80,188	80,987	99.01%	-799



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 03/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division IV - 5,000 To 9,999 Members					
1	SOUTH DAKOTA	4,667	4,585	101.79%	82
2	IOWA	8,308	8,284	100.29%	24
3	MAINE	7,745	7,750	99.94%	-5
4	NORTH DAKOTA	4,402	4,405	99.93%	-3
5	NEBRASKA	6,676	6,690	99.79%	-14
6	RHODE ISLAND	5,693	5,706	99.77%	-13
7	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,806	5,821	99.74%	-15
8	NEVADA	6,098	6,120	99.64%	-22
9	HAWAII	4,899	4,928	99.41%	-29
10	UTAH	5,070	5,107	99.28%	-37
11	MISSISSIPPI	7,612	7,675	99.18%	-63
12	MONTANA	4,271	4,308	99.14%	-37
13	IDAHO	4,958	5,036	98.45%	-78
Division Totals		76,205	76,415	99.73%	-210
Division V - Less than 5,000 Members					
1	WYOMING	1,926	1,939	99.33%	-13
2	D C	2,309	2,335	98.89%	-26
3	VERMONT	2,755	2,787	98.85%	-32
4	DELAWARE	2,544	2,575	98.80%	-31
5	ALASKA	2,554	2,604	98.08%	-50
Division Totals		12,088	12,240	98.76%	-152
National Totals		1,040,699	1,047,261	99.37%	-6,562